ANNUAL REPORT

ON

The Health of the Urban District

OF

SADDLEWORTH,

FOR THE YEAR

1904,

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.

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MR. JOHN THOMAS BRADBURY.

SUNNYSIDE,
DOBCROSS,
JANUARY, 1905.

To the District Council of the Urban Sanitary District of Saddleworth.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report on the Health of your district during the year 1904.

POPULATION.

The census of 1891 gave the population of the Rural District of Saddleworth as 12,999. The area and arrangement of that district was, however, altered on April 9th, 1900, by excluding its Lydgate and Strinesdale portions (with a combined population of 1,260, according to the 1891 census), whilst the area under the late Uppemill Local Board, with a population of 1,609, was added. The name adopted was the Urban Sanitary District of Saddleworth, which would thus have a population of 13,348 in 1891. But the last census (1901) shows this district to have a population of only 12,319, or a diminution of 1,029 during the ten years period from 1891 to 1901. One must not, however, overlook the fact that when the 1891 census was taken, a large number of men were employed in making the new tunnel at Diggle, as well as constructing the reservoirs in the Castleshaw valley, so that I do not consider the figure 13,348 as giving any help in assessing the rate of alteration of your district during the last ten years, and regard the population as stationary, the excess of births over deaths being compensated for by the migration of people to neighbouring towns. Accordingly, the figure 12,319, the population at the last census, is taken as representing your district at the middle of the year 1904.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year was 255, of which 126 were males and 129 females. These included 5 illegitimate births. The natural increase of population, represented by the excess of births over deaths, was 74. As regards still-births, I have still no available information.

BIRTH-RATE.

The estimated BIRTH-RATE is 20·7 per 1,000 inhabitants.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Of the 255 children born, 30 died under the age of one year, as against 37 in 1903. This means that 117·6 children died out of every 1,000 born under the age of one year, or in other words, out of eight children born, one died before it was a year old.

DEATHS.

The deaths registered during the year were 181 in number. Of these, 89 were males and 92 females.

DEATH-RATE.

The DEATH-RATE is estimated at 14·7 per 1,000 inhabitants, as compared with 17·53 in 1903, 16·4 in 1902, 13·9 in 1901, and 17·05 in 1900.

The number of deaths classified according to AGE are :

Under 1 year	30
Between 1 year and 5	17
,, 5 ,, 15	4
,, 15 ,, 25	8
,, 25 ,, 65	69
Over 65	53

Tabulated according to the CAUSE OF DEATH the numbers are :

	1903.	1904.
Smallpox	1	0
Measles	0	2
Scarlet Fever	1	2
Whooping Cough	1	1
Diphtheria	2	5
Membranous Croup	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	3
Epidemic Influenza	2	0
Diarrhœa	0	0
Enteritis	0	1
Puerperal Fever	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0
Other Septic Diseases	4	2
Phthisis	13	7
Other Tubercular Diseases	12	9
Cancer, Malignant Disease	12	5
Bronchitis	17	7
Pneumonia	26	11
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Venereal Diseases	0	0
Premature Birth	8	10
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	0	3
Heart Disease	35	24
Uncertified	10	18
Accidents	7	4
Rheumatic Fever	0	1
Suicides	1	0
All other Diseases	63	66

The deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases were 5 in number, giving a *Zymotic* DEATH-RATE of 1·04 per 1,000, as contrasted with 0·406 in 1903, 0·64 in 1902, 1·05 in 1901, and 0·8 in 1900.

The following table is given for the purpose of comparing the *Zymotic* DEATH-RATES for the last 5 years :

	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria & Croup	Whooping Cough.	Fevers and Typhoid	Zymotic Diarrhœa.
1900	...	0·48	...	0·08	...	0·24	...
1901	...	...	0·32	0·48	0·081	0·16	...
1902	...	0·16	0·08	0·324	0·16	...	...
1903	0·08	...	0·08	0·16	0·08	...	...
1904	...	0·16	0·16	0·4	0·08	0·24	...

The following is a table showing the NUMBER OF DEATHS from zymotic diseases during the last 5 years :

	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria & Croup.	Whooping Cough.	Fevers and Typhoid	Zymotic Diarrhœa.
1900.........	...	6	...	1	...	3	...
1901.........	...	...	4	6	1	2	...
1902.........	...	2	1	4	1	...	...
1903.........	1	...	1	2	1	...	...
1904.........	...	2	2	5	1	3	...

The deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy were 18 in number, giving a RESPIRATORY DEATH-RATE of 1·5 per 1,000. During the past 5 years it was as follows:

1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
1·9	0·64	2·19	3·5	1·5

There were 7 deaths from Phthisis, and 9 from other Tubercular Diseases. The PHTHISICAL DEATH-RATE is 0·56, or the lowest for many years.

Cancer was responsible for 5 deaths, a Death-rate of nearly 0·4, compared with 0·97 in the previous year.

The healthiest months, by far, were August, September, and October, whilst January, April, and July were the unhealthiest, followed by March, November, February, May, June, and December, in order.

The ratio of deaths from infectious diseases to notifications is as follows :

	Deaths.	Notifications.	Ratio per cent.
Diphtheria	5	21	25
Membranous Croup	0	1	*nil*
Scarlet Fever.........	2	83	2·4
Enteric Fever	3	11	27

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION.

This disease is undoubtedly a curable one, provided the patient can have fresh air, good food, and suitable hygienic surroundings. The giving of fresh air is the basis of the open-air treatment of Consumption. To accomplish this, a patient should have treatment at a hospital or sanatorium, for the following reasons : 1.—Change of air and better surroundings ; 2.—The superintendence of the proper open-air treatment ; 3.—The patient is away from home, and so lessens the danger of infecting his relatives and friends.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In my Annual Report for 1902, I pointed out that—
" a Hospital in which such infectious diseases as Scarlet
" Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever could be isolated,
" would be a great factor both in lessening the mortality and
" the number of sufferers from these diseases. This is one of
" the last districts in the West Riding of Yorkshire unpro-
" vided with such an Isolation Hospital. I would, therefore,
" urge on you the necessity of action, as you will, at this
" time, be able to deal with the matter in a less costly
" manner than you will under outside intervention. The
" necessity for such a Hospital is strongly emphasised by the
" figures for the last 10 years, which I here give. The
" figures given in the years prior to 1900 are those of the late
" Rural Sanitary District of Saddleworth, together with those
" of the Uppermill Local Board." I still endorse these
views, and would again urge your serious attention.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES FROM 1895 TO 1904.

	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Scarlet Fever ...	40	23	14	15	10	17	77	44	34	83
Diphtheria	9	16	12	2	5	4	101	37	10	21
Memb. Croup...	7	2	6	1	...	2	3	...	1	1
Typhoid Fever & Continued ,,	22	20	24	22	14	7	7	5	1	11

SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

In view of the proximity of Smallpox, we have had the Hospital at Runninghill kept in readiness. Fires have been lit three times a week, and the premises cleaned and white-washed.

During the last 2 years, our cases have been removed to the Oldham Hospital at Strinesdale. If this arrangement could be made permanent, there would no longer be further need of our Hospital at Runninghill.

DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of infected premises is confined to the removal of the wall-paper, lime-washing, and subsequent fumigation by formalin vapour. There is no disinfecting apparatus for sterilising clothing by super-saturated steam.

VACCINATION.

Owing to the prevalence of Smallpox, I have to report both a larger number and proportion of vaccinations, there have also been many re-vaccinations. During the year, 180 certificates of successful vaccinations were received, whilst 48 had obtained exemption orders. The remaining un-vaccinated children were 56 in number, and included 41 who were under four months old.

SMALLPOX.—On November 24th, a case of Smallpox occurred at 20, Store Cottages, Diggle, followed about seven days later by another one, in the same house. Three days prior to this (on November 28th), a case was notified at the house of the right-hand neighbour, and on December 1st, one of the left-hand neighbours was found to be suffering from the disease, followed a fortnight later by still another at this house.

As the houses (Nos. 19, 20, and 21, Store Cottages) form part of a long row of cottages, it was very necessary to take the utmost precautions to prevent the disease from spreading, and with this object, the patients were at once removed to the Oldham Corporation Hospital at Strinesdale, the other inmates vaccinated, the houses thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and the bedding stoved. The inmates were placed in quarantine, and food brought and gratuitously supplied.

It was owing to these stringent precautions, and the help afforded by the obedience of those in quarantine, that the disease was checked so quickly. The type was very mild, as all the cases had been vaccinated in infancy, and no death resulted.

The source of infection could not be ascertained, for neither of the first two cases had been away from home; the three remaining cases, no doubt, contracted it from the first ones.

Measles has been more or less prevalent during the latter half of the year; in September it was quite epidemic in the district of Royal George, and necessitated the closing of the schools for a fortnight.

The disease in Uppermill, during October and November, was so exceedingly prevalent that few children escaped; it necessitated the closing of both the Church and Wesleyan Schools. The epidemic was of a very mild type, only two deaths resulting therefrom.

Membranous Croup was notified on one occasion only, viz., in May at Millcroft, and resulted in death. Its source could not be ascertained.

Diphtheria:—This disease was notified on twenty-one occasions, the distribution in localities being as follows:—Delph 2, Dobcross 2, Diggle 2, Uppermill 2, and Greenfield 13. In months it was: January, 2; February, 2; March, 3; April, 2; July, 3; September, 2; October, 4; and November, 3.

Distributed according to age they were as follows:

Under one year	0
Between 1 year and 5	8
,, 5 ,, 15	9
,, 15 ,, 25	1
,, 25 ,, 65	3
Over 65 years	0

The greatest number of cases occurred at Greenfield in the latter half of the year, in fact, since July the rest of your district was free, with the exception of a case at Delph in November.

As a rule the cases were of a fairly mild character, although there were not wanting severe types of the disease, for four deaths were attributable to it, viz.: one at Horsforth in March, one at Old Hey in July, and two at Greenfield during September. In three of these cases the deaths were undoubtedly due to their calling in medical aid too late to be of much assistance.

The value of Diphtheria Antitoxin has been again abundantly verified, and your Authority is to be congratulated on its policy of placing a sum of money to be expended in the purchase of this remedy for people who are not in a position to pay for it, and I am grateful for the manner in which you acted on my suggestion.

Scarlet Fever has been more or less prevalent throughout the year, being notified on no less than 83 occasions, of which 2 ended fatally. Its distribution in months was as follows, January, 17; February, 7; March, 13; April, 7; May, 4; June, 6; July, 16; August, 4; September, 1; October, 4; November, 2; December, 2. It will be seen that the great bulk of the epidemic, comprising 70 out of the 83 cases, occurred before the end of July. The distribution in localities was Denshaw 1, Delph 4, Dobcross 13, Diggle 11, Uppermill 26, and Greenfield 28.

The age distribution was as follows:

Under 1 year	0
Between 1 year and 5	22
,, 5 ,, 15	59
,, 15 ,, 25	2

At the commencement of the year, there were cases recorded in every locality, but from February to July it was practically confined to Greenfield, Uppermill, and Dobcross. During July and August, Uppermill suffered so much that it was necessary to close the Church school for a fortnight. From this time to the end of the year, with the exception of Diggle, the district remained comparitively free from the disease. The epidemic was throughout of a very mild type, and no doubt it was owing to this that it became so prevalent. I inspected several of the schools with the object of tracing the infection, and found on three occasions children peeling from the effects of the disease. As the parents pleaded entire ignorance, it was not considered advisable to take legal action.

I would again emphasise how important it is for the teachers to examine the children's hands, and to either send home all cases where they have the slightest suspicion, or ask my opinion.

In all cases isolation was practised as far as possible, and disinfectants gratuitously supplied.

The premises were afterwards disinfected by your Inspector, by means of formalin vapour.

Enteric Fever was responsible for 11 notifications, of which 3 resulted in death. The distribution of these in localities was as follows: Delph, 2; Dobcross, 1; Woolroad, 1; Diggle, 1; Uppermill, 4; Greenfield, 1; and Grasscroft, 1; whilst their distribution in months was:—February, 2; April, 3; August, 1; November, 4; and December, 1. Every endeavour was made to trace the source of infection, particular attention being paid to the milk and water supply. The sanitary condition of the property was also enquired into, the drainage in four cases being found defective.

Owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the water supplied by the Ashton, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield Waterworks Company, many people have gone back to their old habit of using the wells, the water of which, in many cases, is not above suspicion, and I cannot but think that it was due to this fact that we had an increase of the disease.

Erysipelas was notified on 5 occasions, the whole of the cases being about Delph and Denshaw. Nothing of an insanitary condition was found.

Zymotic Diarrhœa was again noteworthy for its absence.

Puerperal Fever was also absent.

Physical Features.

Saddleworth is a large and scattered district, lying on the skirts of the Pennine Chain. It is very hilly, geological evidence pointing to the hills having been worn at a post-glacial date.

The highest hill is 1700 feet high at the top of Chew valley. For the most part, the district is situated on the Millstone Grit, although there is evidence of clay, particularly near Uppermill. The area, including the Lydgate and Strinesdale portions, is 17,663¼ acres, of which 8,200 is unenclosed moorland.

The water from the hills forms the River Tame, which, arising above Junction, passes through Delph, Tame Water, and Uppermill to Mossley, by Royal George. On its way it receives the Hull brook from Castleshaw, as well as brooks from Diggle and Greenfield. The Greenfield Valley is subdivided into two; the one on the right, as we pass up the valley, being the Chew valley, at the top of which waterworks are in course of construction; whilst the one on the left contains two large reserves, called the Yeoman Hey and Greenfield reservoirs. In proximity to the former there exists a large supply of spring water, collected in covered tanks. In the Castleshaw valley, the Oldham Corporation have two large reservoirs, and near Junction, have waterworks at New Year's Bridge, Dowry, Crook Gate, and Readycon Dean.

The River Tame, formerly a beautiful trout stream, is of course, spoilt by the effluents from the various mills. Since the Rivers' Pollution Prevention Act came into force, means have been pretty generally adopted to purify the effluents, the process being generally one of precipitation by the addition of Alumino-ferric, with subsequent filtration through sand. The practice of using the river as a tip has been abandoned, and the sewerage of the larger part of your district, with works for the treatment of sewage, has prevented the passing of crude material into the stream, so that the river may now be said to be in a much more satisfactory condition.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year the greatest dissatisfaction has arisen, owing to the action of the Ashton, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield Waterworks Company, in distributing to the district water from their new upper reserve, known as the Greenfield Reservoir, in place of the fresh spring water formerly distributed by means of a system of tanks. In my last Report, I drew attention to the fact that the water from this reserve contained a large quantity of peaty matter in suspension, and was very acid in character, from solution of the acids contained in the peat, and from these causes had a decided and powerful action in dissolving lead.

Analyses of the water were made from time to time through the courtesy of Dr. Kaye, who corroborated the above statement, and as we had, moreover, independent testimonies from all the medical men in the district of its serious effect on the health of the people, it was decided to take more urgent steps to have the matter remedied.

Accordingly, a general meeting of the ratepayers was convened and held, who appointed a Committee to consider what steps should be taken in the matter. This Committee distributed forms to the medical men in your district, in which they were asked to state particulars of any case of illness or death that they attributed to the water supply. This they did, and thus endorsed the general opinion that it was causing serious injury to the general health.

Later, the Committee appointed delegates who were accompanied by Dr. Kaye and myself, to meet the Waterworks Committee, with the object of enquiring what steps they proposed to take to remedy the evil. The result was a promise to enquire into the matter and see what could be done. At first it was feared our deputation had been to no purpose, but later the district was again connected with the old supply of spring water. I would point out that Dr. Kaye and myself, accompanied by your chairman (Mr. F. W. Mallalieu), your Sanitary Inspector, and the West Riding County Analyst, visited the Waterworks and carefully examined the source and the nature of the water in the various reserves. We found the water in both the upper and lower reserve to be distinctly acid, having vegetable matter in suspension, whilst, on the other hand, the tank water was neutral and of a very good quality.

We also noticed the difficulty that the Waterworks Committee must have in rendering the water in the reserves fit for human consumption, inasmuch as the collecting grounds are not sufficiently large in area that they can afford to lose the whole of the storm water, and as the land leading down to the reservoirs has a great declivity, and is, moreover, of a very loose, peaty nature, it must follow that even a gentle shower of rain will bring down a large quantity of peat with it. I cannot, for my part, see how such reservoirs could have been constructed without providing some means of filtering the water and of neutralising its acid character, so that it will no longer act on lead.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

The laying down of Sewers and the erection of Sewerage Works was completed and brought into action on December 31st, 1896. There are 4 separate drainage schemes in operation, the sewerage in each being treated similarly.

These are—

1 The Delph, Dobcross, and Diggle Scheme, in which the main sewer is laid from Brownhill to Junction, passing through Tamewater, Delph, Linfitts, and Slackcote. Branches from New Delph (up to Lower Stones), Midgrove, Dobcross, and Diggle (up to Sam Lane), run into this, which discharges its sewage at the Outfall Works near Brownhill Bridge.

2 The Royal George and Grasscroft Scheme, in which sewers have been laid from near Greenfield Station to Royal George, and which receives branches from Shawhall and Grasscroft. The Sewage Works are near the River Tame close to Wright Mill.

3 The Greenfield and Friezland Scheme, in which sewers are laid from near Greenfield Station to Waterside, and which receives branches from Wellington Terrace, Ladhill, and Horsforth. The Works are near the River Tame, and close to Wellington Mills.

4 The Uppermill Scheme, in which sewers are laid along the principal streets of Uppermill, and discharge their contents into the Outfall Works near the River Tame, at Halls.

TREATMENT OF SEWAGE.

This is still carried out by the Ferozone system in the Greenfield and Uppermill schemes, which consists in subjecting the sewage to the action of Alumino-ferric placed in the inlet channels, from which it is passed continuously through precipitation tanks, used together or in series, according to circumstances. After separation of the suspended matter, the clear sewage is filtered through beds of Polarite, which are worked intermittently to allow the necessary aëration. The sludge from the precipitation tanks is from time to time removed, and allowed to dry naturally in lagoons, when it is carted away and used as manure. As already indicated, this scheme is costly and somewhat inefficient.

It is proposed to replace it by the Bacterial System, which has already been in use in the Royal George and Grasscroft Scheme, and has now been extended to the Outfall Works in the Dobcross, Diggle, and Junction Scheme. In the former, the treatment is to pass the crude sewage into septic tanks, of which there are two. From these, the sewage passes on to bacteria beds, where it is allowed to stay for six hours, being then run on to another bacteria bed where it stays a similar time. The effluent is afterwards allowed to pass into the river, as it is then found to be good. There are four bacteria beds, only two being used at a time, and these only during six hours out of the twenty-four, so that each one receives eighteen hours' rest. During the night and on Sundays, the effluent from the septic tanks passes through a very large filter bed made of coke, and thence into the stream.

In the Outfall Works in the Dobcross, Diggle, and Junction scheme, the system is ably described in a letter received from B.T. Brierley, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., under whose supervision the work has been carried out, and who also gives a résume of the sewerage work done during the year. This reads as follows :—

> " A new 9in. sewer has been laid under Wellington Road, between Wellington Terrace and the Greenfield Outfall works. This sewer is 390 yards in length.
>
> At the Outfall works, Dobcross, where the sewage brought from Junction, Delph, Dobcross, Tamewater, Diggle, etc., is treated, the Ferozone System has been abandoned and the Bacterial System instituted in its place. The costly method of precipitation by Alumino-ferric, with its large production of practically useless sludge, has thus been entirely done away with.
>
> The new process adopted is as follows :—The sewage is in the first instance conducted into a large detritus tank where all solid insoluble mineral and other matter is retarded by iron screens, and subsequently removed. The sewage is then conveyed to large covered septic tanks (the old precipitation tanks), in which, by the action of bacteria, known as anaërobic, the soluble solids remaining will be liquified. From the septic tanks the liquified sewage passes to a valve chamber, and from this chamber, by means of automatic valves, to two mechanical revolving sprinklers, each 40 feet in diameter, which, in revolving, spray the sewage evenly and slowly over beds of polarite and other hard materials, about 6 feet in depth. This bed is perforated by drain pipes at various levels, so as to ensure the presence of an abundant supply of oxygen to the sewage, as it slowly trickles through the bed. On leaving the Bacteria beds the liquid—now practically purified—flows on to screens of fine sand, 6 inches in thickness, and here the last traces of solid matter will be retained, whilst the pure, translucent liquid flows through a 9 inch pipe to the river. In case of storms, the excess over the normal flow will pass automatically through separate channels to a large storm filter, and thence through the land filter to the river, so that in no case will sewage reach it untreated."

SCAVENGING.

The Urban Sanitary District of Saddleworth may be roughly divided into six sub-districts : Greenfield, Uppermill, Dobcross, Diggle, Delph, and Denshaw ; with the exception of Uppermill, all are deficient in arrangements for the systematic removal of refuse. At Uppermill, this is done at an annual cost of 5s. od. for each house. It is true that the sewerage system has greatly lessened the need, as for example, in Delph, where nearly half the houses are supplied with tippler closets, yet there is no systematic removal of refuse, such as ashes, cabbage leaves, etc. It is contended that greater stringency with regard to the emptying of ashes, will meet all requirements, but I cannot see that scavenging, left to the mercies of tenants and landlords is sufficiently adequate, and so would again urge on you some definite system.

The tip at Greenfield does not meet all requirements, as it is only suitable for ashes.

Delph and Dobcross have now, I am glad to say, got a suitable tip, and if you would arrange for the systematic removal of refuse, in the same way as in Uppermill, the case in those districts would be met.

Houses.

The new houses built during 1904 were 10 in number. The accommodation is, as a rule, one of 'tipplers,' the water carriage system being used wherever available. There are three notable lots of back-to-back houses, viz.: at Bank Field Terrace, Millgate, and at the Barracks, Junction.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

No regulations have been passed under § 13 of the Order relating to these, and matters remain much as they were.

Slaughter Houses.

The Slaughter Houses registered are 23 in number, of which only 14 are in use. These are: 4 in Greenfield, 2 at Dobcross, 1 in Diggle, 3 at Delph, 1 at Junction, and 3 in Uppermill. Although by no means ideal, they are in fair sanitary condition.

Common Lodging House.

There is only one in your district, viz.: at Delph, which contains 21 beds. It is now registered. Although it has been much better managed of late, yet the premises are quite unsuitable, and it should, if possible, be abolished.

Canal.

Passing through the district, from Diggle to Royal George, is the Manchester and Huddersfield Canal, the boats plying on which are inspected from time to time by your Inspector.

Canal Boats.

These are not registered, as your Authority is not a Registration Authority. The boats were inspected during the year.

Industries.

The manufactured goods are woollen and cotton, but chiefly the former. There is a large iron foundry, several bleachworks, a laundry, and works for the manufacture of size. There is little evidence that the employed suffer much in health from their employment; though, no doubt, the large number of women employed tends to a certain amount of infant mortality.

Smoke Abatement.

A few mills are to be blamed for allowing unnecessarily large volumes of smoke to escape from their chimneys, and which must be prejudicial to animal as well as plant life. It will, I hope, not be necessary to take action in this matter, as it is a nuisance which can be readily obviated, and with the idea of preventing it, the District Council have given instructions for observations to be regularly taken.

Adoptive Acts.

On April 9th, 1900, when the Rural Sanitary District of Saddleworth was amalgamated with the Uppermill Local Board, to form the present Urban Sanitary District of

Saddleworth, the "Order of Amalgamation" made the following Adoptive Acts in force, viz.:

1. The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.
2. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
3. Parts II. and III. of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, of which Part II. is concerned with Sanitary matters.

BYE-LAWS.

The following bye-laws are in force, and relate to—

1. Private Scavenging.
2. Prevention of Nuisances.
3. Common Lodging Houses.
4. New Streets and Buildings.
5. Slaughter houses.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

This Act came into force on January 1st, 1902, and whilst repealing all the existing Factory and Workshop Acts, it consolidates, with numerous amendments, the provisions they contain.

It provides, amongst other things, for

1. The cleanliness, ventilation, overcrowding, and sanitary condition of all Factories and Workshops, and gives more power to the District Council and their officers to enforce these conditions.

2. The safety of the workers. For example:
    - (*a*) By the fencing of machinery,
    - (*b*) By the provisions of means of escape in case of fire.

    [Every District Council shall have power to make bye-laws providing for means of escape from fire in the case of any Factory or Workshop; to which bye-laws § 182 to 186 of the Public Health Act, 1875, shall apply.]

3. The notification to His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Factories by any medical practitioner of any case of
    - (*a*) Lead, phosphorus, arsenic, or mercurial poisoning;
    - (*b*) Anthrax, or woolsorters' disease.

4. The sanitary condition of Bakehouses, and their maintenance in such a condition, as for example, by periodical lime-washing, etc.

5. The sanitary condition of Laundries, and their maintenance therein.

6. Work done at people's homes.

The District Council has power to prohibit under penalty:

- (*a*) The giving out of work to be done on unwholesome premises;
- (*b*) The giving out of wearing apparel to be made, cleaned, or repaired, in any house or building whilst any inmate suffers from Scarlet Fever or Smallpox.

In case any inmate of a house is suffering from an infectious disease the District Council may make an order forbidding any work to be given to any person living or working in that house.

The number of Workshops registered in your district is 31, including 9 Bakehouses. There are no underground Bakehouses. There are 35 Factories, but no Domestic Factories. All the Workshops, and most of the Factories have been inspected, but no legal proceedings have been taken. The Lists of Outworkers received are 10 in number, representing 10 employers, and 144 outworkers. No action has resulted from an outworker having infected premises. During the year 32 inspections of workshops were made.

RATES.

During the past year, the rates were 5/4 in the £, including a District Rate of 2/6 and a Poor Rate of 2/10 in the £; the former rate includes Lighting, Sanitary, and Special Sanitary Rates.

The gross estimated Rental was £97,018. The rateable value of agricultural land was £5,679, and of buildings, etc., £69,655.

The statistics for England and Wales being now available, I give the following table for comparison.

	England and Wales.	England & Wales less the Towns.	U. S. D. of Saddleworth.
Death-rate	16·2	15·3	14·7
Zymotic Death-rate..	1·94	1·28	1·04
Infantile Mortality...	146	125	117·6
Birth-rate...............	27·9	26·8	20·7

Reviewing the health of the district for the year 1904, I feel much inclined to congratulate you, as the death-rate, 14·7, is exceptionally low. This is in great part due to the great decrease in the number of deaths from diseases of the lungs and heart, and is doubtless explained by the exceptionally fine weather we had during the summer and autumn. The number of deaths from zymotic diseases is, however, somewhat larger than usual, and there is an unusually large number of uncertified deaths. Then we had epidemics of Measles and Scarlet Fever, which, though causing few deaths, were responsible for a great deal of sickness. The water supplied by the Ashton, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield Waterworks, although now satisfactory, was for a long time prejudicial to health.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT ARE—

1. Sewering of Saddleworth Fold.
2. Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
3. Tips at Greenfield, Diggle, and Denshaw.
4. Adoption of the bacterial method to the whole of the sewage.

In conclusion, I append a copy of the Meteorological Report, and the Nuisance Inspector's Report.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT RAMSDEN.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT. I am much indebted to Chas. J. Batley, Esq., Assoc. M. Inst., C.E., and Resident Engineer at Piethorn, for the following Meteorological Report.

OLDHAM CORPORATION WATER WORKS.

RAINFALL AT CASTLESHAW "BROADHEAD" IN 1904.

GAUGE, 875 FEET 6 INCHES ABOVE SEA-LEVEL.

The Rainfall recorded at Castleshaw during the past year has been 6½ inches less than the average, and with the exception of 1887 and 1902, has been the driest year recorded.

During the first five months the average was fully maintained, but June, July, September, and October were exceptionally fine and dry, the periods of drought being very long, and the weather bright and sunny.

On only one day during the year has the rainfall exceeded an inch, an exceptional occurrence even during a dry year, and the number of days on which rain fell has been large, indicating that the rainfall has been light.

The accompanying tables shew in detail the Rainfalls recorded at the Castleshaw Rain Gauge, since 1887.

DATE, 1904.	RAINFALL.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which rain fell.
	Inches.	Date.	Inches.	
January	3·96	12	·75	24
February ...	3.52	19	·46	21
March	2·29	30	·33	17
April	2·88	22	·42	20
May	3·67	27	·84	21
June	·92	9	·30	11
July	1·48	27	·37	15
August	4·41	22	·91	20
September ...	1·76	2	·61	13
October	1·74	16	·63	13
November ...	3·52	8	1.23	16
December ...	3·36	15	·54	18
	33.51			209

CHAS. J. BATLEY.

January 24th, 1905.

OLDHAM CORPORATION WATER WORKS. RAINFALL AT CASTLESHAW "BROADHEAD."

Gauge, 875 feet, 6 Inches above Sea-level.

	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
January ...	1·58	1·64	2·32	4·77	3·23	3·17	1·30	3·90	2·43	2·11	1·67	3·27	6·15	4·86	2·16	2·61	3·87	3·96
February....	1·01	·49	1·94	·88	·35	2·08	5·24	5·97	·57	2·23	2·27	3·45	1·40	3·79	1·63	1·19	4·07	3·52
March	1·78	2·74	2·36	4·25	1·89	·79	1·04	4·03	4·17	5·97	4·48	1·72	2·38	·91	2·98	2·28	5·57	2·29
April	1·62	3·39	3·56	1·84	2·12	1·38	·82	2·39	2·67	2·	3·43	2·85	3·58	2·60	2·71	1·83	2·23	2·88
May	2·18	·81	2·22	3·61	3·70	4·94	2·84	2·76	1·28	·77	1·56	3·24	3·42	1·38	1·44	3·04	3·39	3·67
June	·47	2·92	·63	3·68	2·06	3·69	2·88	3·63	4·64	3·17	4·18	4·08	1·50	5·96	1·87	1·29	1·51	·92
July	2·02	7·41	4·11	3·47	4·06	3·45	4·26	3·78	8·78	3·54	1·70	·69	1·57	3·54	3·13	2·74	4·03	2·48
August......	1 69	3·87	7·79	6·14	9·24	4·36	2·91	4·17	4·78	2·96	4·42	5·92	2·33	5·50	2·34	3·60	5·17	4·41
September..	5·30	1·98	3·35	1·83	3·93	4·95	4·28	·51	1·73	8.	4·90	·75	6·90	1·58	·80	2·47	5·80	1·76
October ...	3·63	2·15	5·80	3·96	6·71	8·15	3·65	5·13	4·44	5·78	2·60	5·51	4·45	5·84	3·64	5·07	9·29	1·74
November...	2·53	7·75	2·20	5·71	4·19	3·51	3·71	2·74	3·31	1·64	5·66	2·71	1·30	3·53	6·11	1·78	3·61	3·52
December...	2·83	2·93	3·13	·59	8·59	2·18	4·62	4·01	4·68	5·74	5·04	4·88	2·22	5·61	5·16	3·50	2·35	3·36
	26·64	38·08	39·41	40·73	50·04	42·65	37·55	43·02	43·40	43·91	41·91	39·07	37·20	45·10	33·97	31·40	50·89	33·51

NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

NUISANCES.	Unabated, 1903.	Reported, 1904.	Abated, 1904.	Unabated, 1904.
Accumulation of Ashes and Offensive Matter …………	2	38	38	2
Privies and Ashpits requiring Emptying ………………	3	58	58	3
Defective Drainage …………………………………………	...	8	7	1
Insufficient Closet Accommodation ……………………	1	7	7	1
Number of Closets ordered to be erected ………………	...	6	6	...
Defective Construction of Closets ………………………	...	6	5	1
New Ashpits ordered to be erected………………………	...	6	5	1
Filthy Matter lying exposed ……………………………	...	6	6	...
Slopstone Pipes disconnected and trapped ……………	...	7	7	...
TOTAL ...	6	142	139	9

Number of Slaughter-houses used………………………	14
,, ,, Examined ………………	14

JOHN T. BRADBURY, *Nuisance Inspector.*